

Marcus is a 16-year-old high school student. He is a talented musician who has been familiar with music since his early childhood. After entering high school, he formed a band with his friends, which allowed his talent to blossom even further. One day they had a chance to perform in front of the audience at the school performance contest. Even though they were all busy and could only practice a couple of times a week, his band won the best performance award.

After winning the school contest, Marcus and his band members were offered a chance to perform at a local event. The event is expected to attract people of various age groups. For this local event, Marcus is preparing a set list for the show. The songs at the last event were very popular, especially among teenagers but he is wondering whether they have to play other songs that might be appealing to a more varied audience. Among five band members, two think that they should play other songs, while the other two members don't think so. Marcus, as the band leader, now has to make a decision and the event is just two weeks away.

(An examinee reads the passage aloud.)

Question 1: What is Marcus's dilemma?

Question 2: If you were Marcus, what would you do?

English Language Skills Test [Speaking Test] **Sample Answers**

*Reading aloud: (4 marks)

Question 1: (6 marks)

Marcus's dilemma is to decide the songs that his band will perform at the local event. Because the event is not far away, the band does not have a lot of time and it would be easier to play the songs they had done for the performance contest. However, since those songs were popular chiefly among teenagers, they run the risk of alienating some of the attendees as the audience is expected to be varied. (75 words)

Question 2: (10 marks)

If I were Marcus, I would do two things. I would use most of the songs that were played in the performance contest as well as select one song that is famous across many age groups. With the limited time, it would be more practical to practice the songs the band already knows and make those as perfect as possible since many people are likely to appreciate a well-executed performance even if they are not familiar with the song. I would however use the two weeks to work on a famous song and include it at the end of the performance. This way, those who are not familiar with the other songs would also have a familiar song they enjoy. (120 words)